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24 April 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Support)

SUBJECT : Approval for Expense Against Appropriated Funds for  
Apartment Rental

1. Following conversations last week with [redacted]

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[redacted] in which their informal concurrence was received, I should like to request that formal approval be given to charge against appropriated funds certain apartment rentals in the Cherry Housing Area immediately adjacent to Edwards Air Force Base, Muroc, California, pending their actual occupancy by certain CIA staff personnel and military assignees.

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2. As you are aware, the research and development capability of Project AQUATONE must be moved [redacted]

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3. Living quarters at Edwards are in scarce supply, necessitating the placement of resident staff and military personnel in the adjacent area known as Desert Villa, Government owned but commercially operated. These apartments become available only as present occupants vacate, and the option on their rental must be picked up without delay, even though they thus become available before the actual projected date of occupancy by Project personnel. In our opinion, it appears unreasonable to ask Project personnel to pay rent on these quarters during the period of their residence at Watertown where they are also paying quarters rental.

4. It is proposed that the Agency stand the cost of renting these apartments from the day they become vacant and available through the day preceding occupancy by Project personnel. Rentals are \$104.00 monthly, and our estimate of the number of such units required is [redacted]. The actual moving date is somewhat contingent upon modifications to the physical plant within the allotted hangar, and upon decisions in the offing between the Air Force and this Agency at the highest levels. The Project Director has given us a firm planning date of 15 May 1957; however, for the reasons noted, it may develop that our physical move from [redacted] Edwards Air Force Base may be delayed until as late as the end of June, 1957.

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5. The only alternative to having Project personnel live in the apartments in question would be for the Agency to be asked to stand the cost of rehabilitating an existing temporary quarters building on the base, which would run into considerable expenditures of time and money. The approval requested herein could amount to a maximum of  in contrast.

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JAMES A. CUNNINGHAM, JR.  
Project Director of Administration

**ACTION BY APPROVING AUTHORITY**

Approved:

8 May 57  
(Date)

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(Signature)

DD/S  
(Title)

**Distribution:**

- 0 & 2 - Addressee
- 4 - Deputy Project Director
- 5 - Director of Administration
- 6 - Special Approval File
- 7 -
- 8 - Reading (Fin)
- 9 - Chrono

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